

18 April 1978

Dear Family,

Enclosed is a copy of the latest edition of Patricia and Stansfield's adventures. It's a bit long but a rather full description of our exciting trip to the Middle East. Hope you enjoy it.

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This last week we received our first invitation to a State Dinner at the White House--wouldn't you know that I was already signed up to be out of town! Maybe they will think of us again. My trip, without Patricia, was to Lexington, Kentucky, for two speeches, a press conference, and a seminar with students on Wednesday. The highlight was 125 Iranian student dissidents who showed up at the lecture and tried to interrupt it in every way possible. The police threw quite a few of them out. I persisted and was patient and things went well in the long run. When I left, however, they had a cordon of police with billy clubs drawn that scared me more than the students as I got into the car.

the next day

We flew on to Detroit that evening where I had another press conference, a meeting with students, and a lecture to the Detroit Economic Club at lunchtime. I was most impressed with the improvements in Detroit since Pat and I were there in 1971. The center of the city is coming back from a real nadir.

Right after that event, I flew on to Columbus, Ohio, for another press conference, meeting with students, dinner and lecture at Ohio State University. Interestingly, this was all set up by a young professor on their faculty whom I had given a research grant to when I was at the Naval War College. I picked a good man, I believe, because he had arranged this set of events perfectly. The meeting with faculty and students was particularly stimulating. One of them asked me a most unusual question--the first time I had ever had it--"What is the basis for your moral outlook in the decisions you make?--I read that you are a teetotaler, a Christian Scientist; what difference does that make to you?" It was an unusual and difficult one to field. At the student lecture that evening there were a few attempts to heckle me by shouting and some of the questions were rather intemperate. Interestingly, however, the bulk of the audience was very supportive and some of the young students were very concerned about whether we were taking the Soviet military threat seriously enough. It was quite a contrast in attitudes.

The big event coming up is that Pat is planning an art exhibit and reception in a tent on our lawn in the apple orchard on the 23rd. The art will be Lilian Whitteker's and Pat has been busy making and painting frames for a number of her paintings. We thought this would be a nice thing to do for Lilian and a great way to utilize the fine grounds that we have around the house here. Patricia has been out sprucing them up, planting and weeding and tidying up.

That's the news for now from Washington. Hope you enjoy the travelogue.